

## WIPP Quick Facts (As of 10-8-07)

**6,136**

Shipments received since opening

**51,067**

Cubic meters of waste disposed

**94,034**

Containers disposed in the underground

## Farok Sharif Fast Facts:

### Education:

Bachelor's degree in operations research management and a master's of business administration from New Mexico State University

### Previous job:

WTS Deputy General Manager

### Years Experience:

17

### Family:

Wife, Cindy and two children, Ari and Troy

### Interesting to note:

Sharif's office is in the Skeen-Whitlock Building, which is partially named in honor of his late father-in-law, NM State Senator Louis Whitlock, who championed WIPP in the early days.

## An Officer and a General Manager:

## Farok Sharif rises to the challenge as WTS' new boss



No introductions are needed for someone who first began working at WIPP in 1990. But after a lengthy discussion with WTS' new president and general manager, TeamWorks asks the question, "Do you really know Farok Sharif?"

Sharif himself is the first to admit that the answer is probably no. As one who often shuns the spotlight, he believes strongly that in the end, performance will speak for itself. And so for the last 17 years he has worked at WIPP and other DOE sites challenging himself and those around him to keep the standard for performance at the highest level possible.

He began his career at WIPP as a senior engineer for packaging under the National TRU Waste Program. He served as the project manager for the design of the mobile loading unit that is still in use today. Later, Sharif led the development of the National TRU Program Central Characterization Project (CCP), which completely re-engineered the way waste was readied for shipment to WIPP. The success of the CCP led to a ramp-up from 1-2 shipments per week to a record 35 shipments in a single week last year.

This is information we generally know, but there's so much more to Farok Sharif than that. Away from WIPP, Sharif's time is spent with family and participating in community activities.

He is clearly proud when talking about his wife and children. Sharif's wife Cindy is the DWI program coordinator for Eddy County. Through signs, billboards and outreach to students in schools, her focus is to raise awareness about the dangers of drinking and driving.

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## TRU TeamWorks: The next 100

Time flies when you're cleaning up the nation. The September 20 publication of TRU TeamWorks was our 100th issue. We've been keeping employees and stakeholders informed since August 14, 2003.

Thanks for your readership! Watch for even more great information as WIPP continues to safely fulfill its mission!

TeamWorks

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## Digital housecleaning

Is your Inbox full? Many of us are so busy with our day-to-day work that we forget to cleanup those messages that are no longer needed. At least until we get the automated message warning us that our Inbox has exceeded its 70MB limit.

Here are some reminders to keep our digital house in order:

- ⌘ E-mail messages that are records should be printed and filed before deletion
- ⌘ File attachments can be saved to your computer so the message can be deleted (be sure to scan for viruses first)
- ⌘ Spam mail messages should be dragged to the All Spam Mail directory under the Public Folders
- ⌘ Messages that are not records should be deleted regularly

"She's in the business of saving lives," says Sharif.

The Sharif's have two children. Their daughter, Ari, is a senior in high school and last year placed second in Girls Doubles at the state tennis tournament. Their son, Troy, is a freshman in high school and is attending his first year at the New Mexico Military Institute.

"They're good kids," says Sharif. "They're very focused on what they're doing and what they need to do to accomplish their goals."

Sharif is also focused on activities in the community. His schedule includes weekly practice with the Carlsbad Community Chorale and an occasional match at the tennis courts. Last summer, he was in a musical at the Carlsbad Community Theater in which he not only sang and acted, but also did some of it in Cantonese.

But perhaps the most unexpected of Sharif's after hours activities is playing the real-life role of lieutenant in the Carlsbad Police Department Reserves. His interest in law enforcement was peaked at the age of 15 when he witnessed a seemingly larger-than-life police officer take down and arrest a neighborhood burglar.

"I think I want to be a cop," Sharif remembers telling his mother right afterward.

His career path didn't go in that direction, but since 1997, he has been a reserve officer who provides backup to Carlsbad's full-time police force. Just joining the reserves is an accomplishment. Candidates undergo extensive training on daytime and nighttime use of firearms, defensive tactics, pursuit driving and high-speed driving. In the end, they must also pass strenuous physical tests. In some cases, reserve officers have continued their training by attending the police academy to become full-time certified officers.

While it's unlikely we have to worry about Sharif quitting his day job, his community involvement and interaction with people from all walks of life have had a definite impact on his ability to step up to his new job.

"I know the people," says Sharif. "I know the passion of people wanting the community to grow."

He also knows that the community's expectation of excellence at WIPP is pervasive.

"The performance standard is up there," he says, motioning with his hands high in the air. "WIPP's excellent performance in turn makes it easier for the community to stand up and support us."

Sharif is also proud of how local talent has contributed to the project.

"A lot of people have started work here and have advanced in their careers. Also, there are a lot of family ties – mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers – evident in the WIPP workforce. I view that as a positive thing. After all, who is the company? The company is *us*."

And the company still has a lot of work to do. Sharif is thankful for the support WTS has from our customer, the Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO).

"It's a partnership with the customer. We're in this together. We're here to do a job and we have the same mission – get the waste from all these locations and put it where it is the safest in the world."

CBFO Manager Dave Moody was equally optimistic about WIPP's future.

"We're pleased Farok has accepted this position," said Moody. "He has been a key partner in WIPP's success and I have full confidence in his ability to move the project forward."

- ⌘ Don't forget that your Sent Items folder also needs cleaning up. A forwarded attachment takes up the same amount of space in your Sent Items folder as it did in your Inbox.

A few minutes at the end of the workday can keep your Inbox manageable and down to size!

As if singing in Cantonese and acing firearms tests at the firing range aren't surprising enough, TeamWorks asked Sharif if there was anything else about himself that might surprise people.

"I think people are surprised about the importance I place on having a comprehensive vision," says Sharif. "You can't just focus on one aspect of the project, it's everything together. When the initial plan for CCP was sent out, some people asked me if I was crazy. But if all we did was focus on the site itself, we'd have nothing to dispose. Every step along the way – characterization, transportation, disposal – is important."

So now, we ask the question again. "Do you think you know Farok Sharif?"

Regardless of the response, there are sure to be more surprises ahead.

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## WIPP awarded Mine Operator of the Year

For the 21st time in twenty-one years, WIPP has been named the Mine Operator of the Year by the state mine inspector and the New Mexico Mining Association (NMMA). The honor was recently awarded at the NMMA's annual convention in Albuquerque.



"It always feels good to be recognized by external agencies," said Subhash Sethi, WTS repository development manager. "This is a positive reflection on the performance of our personnel."

The award was based on WIPP's outstanding safety record in the Underground Non-Metal category. In addition, WIPP was presented with certificates of merit for having no reportable injuries in five sections within Operations:

- ⌘ Mining and Ground Control
- ⌘ Hoisting
- ⌘ Underground Services
- ⌘ Underground and Hoisting Maintenance
- ⌘ Waste Handling Operations

"My appreciation goes out to WTS, and I would like to identify several folks for their leadership in these functional areas," said George Basabilvazo, CBFO director for the Office of Site Operations, in a congratulatory message. "They are Scott Anderson, Donna Busche, Hardy Bellows, Randy Britain, Subhash Sethi, Stan Patchet, John Vandekraats, Bob Kirby, Johnny Marrs, Bob Pressett, Dale Parrish, David Hernandez and Jeff Neatherlin and their professional mining staff, and many others who make this type of recognition possible."

### **WIPP Mine Rescue Blue Team members**

Gary Kessler, Joel Howard, David Sjomeling, Ben Zimmerly, Heath Fowler, Joe Baca, Jim Pearce, Fabian Carrasco and Buddy Webb

### **WIPP Mine Rescue Silver Team members**

Greg Sensibaugh, Matt Ridgeway, Kirk Nance, Fabian Carrasco, Doug Pitzer, Curtis Sanders III and Buddy Webb

## **Mine Rescue Blue Team has success in competition**

Some of WIPP's best took to the field in the University of Missouri-Rolla's annual mine rescue competition on September 25-27. The team competed against approximately a dozen other teams from around the nation.

The Blue Team took second place in the field competition, just narrowly missing the top spot, and took first place in the first aid competition. In addition, Joe Baca placed second in the bench competition and Buddy Webb placed first among team trainers.

"We know who the best mine rescuers in the country are," said Doug Steffen, WTS manager of Operations and Disposal.

The competition involved a mine disaster simulation set up and monitored by the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration. In addition to the rescue simulation and written exams, other events included first aid, gas testing and maintaining a self-contained breathing apparatus.

Earlier in the year, the WIPP Mine Rescue Silver Team took top honors at the Western Regional Mine Rescue Competition in Golden, Colo. The team claimed "best overall" honors in the competition, taking a first place in the field competition, second place in the bench contest and the first aid competition and a third place in the gas detector competition.

## **WIPP Blood Drive breaks records!**



Steve Offner (WTS) donates blood while Jenny Adams of United Blood Services monitors progress. The WIPP Blood Drive was held at both the Skeen-Whitlock Building and at the WIPP site.

Congratulations, WIPP! At last week's blood drive, we set a WIPP record for donations, with 154 units of blood given. In fact, we even broke United Blood Services' (UBS) record for the most units ever collected in a single day. Using two mobile collection buses parked near the Safety Building, WIPP site employees contributed 110 units of blood.

The next WIPP Blood Drive is planned for April 2008. Donors will have the chance to win a weekend for two at the NASCAR races in Phoenix, Ariz., including airfare, hotel, transportation and prime seats at the race.

Thanks for being heroes!

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## **Visionary Solutions, LLC awarded transportation services contract**

A new carrier has been selected to provide transportation services to WIPP. On September 27, the DOE awarded the second of two such contracts to Visionary Solutions, LLC of Oak Ridge, Tenn. The company joins CAST Specialty Transportation of Henderson, Colo., which was awarded a new contract in March, but has provided services to WIPP since before the facility opened.

The new contract includes a base period of 10 months from the date of award and five option periods, which would extend the term of the contract to five years. The total dollar value of the contracts is \$106.7 million, if all options are exercised.

"The safe transportation of TRU waste to WIPP is critical to our continued success," says Casey Gadbury, CBFO office director of the Office of National TRU Programs.

Since WIPP's opening in 1999, more than 7,000 shipments have been received, having collectively traveled more than seven million loaded miles en route to WIPP. Drivers are required to be among the best in the world with extensive driving experience and a spotless safety record.



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## Waste Handling Building to be painted pink

A lot of people think WIPP's Waste Handling Building would look a lot better if it were pink. So Wednesday, it's going to happen.

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### Interested in WIPP?

If you would like to be notified when TRU TeamWorks is updated with the latest information about WIPP, send an e-mail message to [TRUTeamWorks@wipp.ws](mailto:TRUTeamWorks@wipp.ws).

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Well, not exactly. But on Wednesday in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, there's going to be a lot of pink wherever you look. Anita Self and Joyce Pruitt from WTS Health Services have spearheaded the "Paint the Project Pink" campaign, which is being funded by volunteer donations.

"I envision a sea of pink," says Self.

Pink ribbons will prominently adorn poles, trees, and walls at the site and in town. You can show your support by:

- ⌘ Wearing pink on Wednesday
- ⌘ Getting your nails painted pink (which will be available at the site gate and in the Skeen-Whitlock Building lobby in the morning)

"Say what?!" you can almost hear WIPP's male employees exclaim.

"Real men do wear pink," insists Self. "This affects men too."

She says the slogan for the national Paint the Town Pink campaign is *Mothers, Daughters, Sisters, Wives ... Early Detection Saves Lives.*

"Every man has at least one of those!"

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The U.S. Department of Energy  
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

Please send comments and/or  
suggestions to: [TRU TeamWorks](mailto:TRUTeamWorks)

